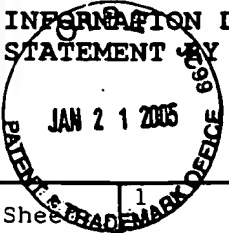


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		Filing Date	September 11, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Takao TABATA et al
		Group Art Unit	3626
		Examiner Name	Carolyn M. BLECK
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	00646/LH	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits [*]	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits [*]	Cite No ¹	Offic ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
CB		JP	10-003452			01-06-1998		
CB		JP	10-161864			06-19-1998		
CB		JP	10-314149			12-02-1998		

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: January 21, 2005



1-24-05

AF/3626
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Attorney Docket No. 00646/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Takao TABATA et al
Serial No. : 09/659,771
Filed : September 11, 2000
For : MEDICAL APPARATUS LEASE
SYSTEM FOR WHICH FEES ARE
PAID DEPENDING ON USAGE
STATUS AND MEDICAL APPARATUS
COMPATIBLE THEREWITH
Art Unit : 3626
Examiner : Carolyn M. BLECK

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S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- Considered (1) Copy of a Japanese Office Action (and English
CB translation thereof) issued in the counterpart Japanese
application;
↓ CB (2) Copies of the cited publications (except for JP 10-
222568); and
(3) ~~Form PTO/SB/08A.~~

An English translation of said Japanese Office Action is
provided, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise
explanation of relevance for any non-English language
publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 10-222568
was submitted to the USPTO with the Information Disclosure

 2/24/05